

The Army Industrial Hygiene Newsletter

This letter is published by the US Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine as a service to the Army Industrial Hygiene Program, Federal agencies, and industrial hygienist throughout the federal and private sector.



Upcoming Courses and Conferences

- Intermediate Industrial Hygiene Topics Course, 19-30 March 2001, Towson, Maryland (chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/trng/describe.crs/d6h_f10.htm)
- American Industrial Hygiene Conference and Expo, 2-7 June 2001, New Orleans, Louisiana (www.aiha.org/conf.html)
- Force Health Protection Conference, 26-30 August 2001, Albuquerque, New Mexico (www.chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/trng/datepage.htm#Force)

Inside this issue:

HHIM	2
OHMIS/HHIM	3
DOEHRS-IHStatus	3
Intermediate IH Topics Course	4
FHP Conference for 2001	4
Respirator Cartridges	5
TeleWeb Virtual Seminars	5
Websites	6

Seasonal Safety for Fall

Welcome to the Army IH Newsletter, Fall 2000.

With autumn and winter weather approaching, leaves are changing colors and the harvest season is upon us. Also, as we move towards winter, morning dew is turning to morning frost.

These seasonal changes prompt new safety concerns. Here are some safety tips for this slippery season:

- Drive carefully on roads covered with leaves. Fallen leaves on the roadways can be a driving hazard, lessening the traction between your tires and the road. They become even more of a hazard if they get wet.
- Watch your step in the early morning hours. As the

weather gets colder, early morning frost starts moving in, and that can be a slip, trip or fall hazard.

- Practice the 10-foot rule. As we move into Fall clean-up, it's important to remember to stay at least 10 feet away from power lines. The rule applies to people as well as objects like ladders, antennas, tools or tall construction equipment.

- Before the start of the heating season, have your chimney inspected and cleaned to prevent chimney fires. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends cleaning your fireplace once a year.

- The Tire Industry Council Group recommends checking your tires for Fall safety. "When outside temperatures begin to



drop, tires should be checked at least once a month because cold weather reduces your tire's inflation pressure," says Council Chairman Thomas E. Cole.

Safely enjoy the Fall season and all its festivities!

Department of Defense Instruction 6055.5 Revision

The Department of Defense Industrial Hygiene Working Group (DoD IHWG) and the DoD Medical Surveillance Working Group are working together to revise DoD Instruction 6055.5 (<http://web7.whs.osd.mil/pdf/i60555p.pdf>), which governs industrial hygiene and occupational health.

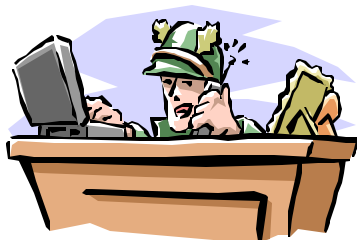
Download & install your

free copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader 4.05c via the web (<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>) to be able to view the file.

While you're on the web, bookmark the DoD IHWG website (<http://www.denix.osd.mil/denix/DOD/News/Army/DOHP/Occhealth/Hygn/hygnpage.html>) to

stay abreast of current documents, meeting minutes, and presentations. Discussions are underway with the Joint Environmental Surveillance Working Group to expand the scope of DoDI 6055.5 to include environmental health.

Military Personnel Data in HHIM



Damita Townes' success story at Fort Bragg: "When we go to the units, they give us a roster with names and SSNs."

At your installation, do you experience any problems with getting names & Social Security Numbers (SSNs) of the military service members for entry into your Occupational Health Management Information System (OHMIS) Health Hazard Information Module (HHIM) 3.0 software? Many of you may have noticed that the HHIM 3.0 contains a civilian personnel (ACPERS) data transfer utility, but does not include capabilities to transfer military personnel data. Unfortunately, interim changes will no longer be made on the HHIM 3.0 software because the Defense Occupational & Environmental Health Readiness System - Industrial Hygiene (DOEHRS-IH) application is scheduled to supersede the HHIM 3.0 during late 2001. Thankfully, DOEHRS-IH will synchronize military and civilian personnel data with the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) corporate database by transferring information to and from your local industrial hygiene program office via several regional servers. For now, the following solutions have been implemented successfully within the Army industrial hygiene community:

- Clarence Stanley's success story at Fort Stewart: "We've not experienced any problems here with getting names and SSNs of military service members. What we do here are the following:

First, telephonically coordinate our IH mission services with the unit commanders or activity directors. This process starts approximately 45 days before the scheduled survey date. Usually the commander or staff director will have questions. We do explain the purpose of the survey, what regulation requires the IH service, the last time his/her unit was surveyed, and what we need from them (such as a listing of names at each jobsite, listing of MSDSs, listing of chemicals used, etc). Next, we send each unit a notification letter with a survey itinerary attached. The notification letter reiterates and explains what we will need from the unit to facilitate the completion of the survey. Lastly, we schedule entrance and exit briefings with the commander/director or his/her designee. We do emphasize partnering and the "No Surprise" approach. As a result, we've gotten better unit cooperation and increased emphasis on workplace safety and health issues. The key factors are contacting the key decision makers, educating them, and taking time to explain your needs that would facilitate completion of the survey. This procedure works here as it has at other installations that I've been assigned to. I've found that commanders, directors or supervisors are more likely to cooperate with most requests when they are suffi-

ciently informed. I've also noticed that when I deal with the lower echelons of supervision, I run into more resistance."

- Damita Townes' success story at Fort Bragg: "When we go to the units, they give us a roster with names and SSNs."

- James Dean's success story at Fort Polk: "We get our information on soldiers directly from the supervisor as we do our assessments and inventories. We expedite the process with a letter of explanation and the Privacy Act Statement when we initially arrive. We sometimes run into a supervisor who does not understand why we need the info but with further explanation and sometimes chain of command assistance they eventually cooperate."

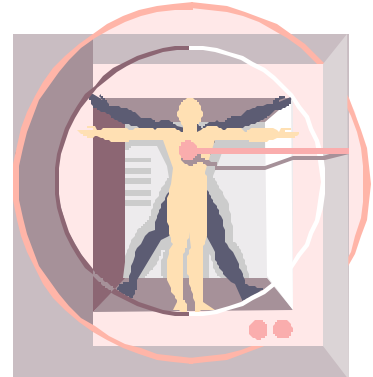
Do you experience any problems with getting names & SSNs of the military service members at your installations? If you've implemented a solution that you'd like to share, contact Dennis Morgan, USACHPPM, DSN 584-2439, Commercial 410-436-2439, Electronic Mail: Dennis.Morgan@apg.amedd.army.mil

OHMIS HHIM Corporate Database Resuscitation

The Occupational Health Management System (OHMIS) Corporate Database will be available for query by January 2001.

Database reports can answer questions about the prevalence of health hazards in the Army and the risk to military and civilian personnel.

To request a report, contact Dennis Morgan, USACHPPM, DSN 584-2439, Commercial 410-436-2439, Electronic Mail: Dennis.Morgan@apg.amedd.army.mil



DOEHRS-IH Status

Your software's not here yet, but it's coming.

During September 2000, the Army, Navy, and Air Force participated in a thorough review of the 985-page Software Requirements Specification that describes each of the Defense Occupational & Environmental Health Readiness System - Industrial Hygiene (DOEHRS-IH) forms and reports.

As of October 2000, Fed-Tech was conducting a 30-day, independent verification and validation assessment of DOEHRS-IH, analyzing the existing source code for quality, reusability, and functionality. By December 2000, the DOEHRS PMO will issue a letter to the Tri-Services' Surgeons General, with copies furnished to the Secretariats, to present the

DOEHRS-IH status and to discuss interim measures (including cost and schedule).

Monitor the DOEHRS Web site for updates in deployment schedules, <http://dohrswww.apgea.army.mil>





The Intermediate Industrial Hygiene Topics Course

The Intermediate IH Topics Course provides training and continuing education in technical aspects of industrial hygiene. Specific content may vary from year to year depending on current issues. However, the course addresses the principle topics of IH Program Management, Respiratory Protection, Industrial Ventilation, Air Monitoring Equipment, Lead, Asbestos and Indoor Air Quality.

This course is primarily for MEDCOM personnel but other qualified personnel may attend on a space available basis.

Applicants must have attended the Basic IH Course at the AMEDD Center &

School or attended an IH Course either through AIHA, OSHA or an accredited university.

The course will be held 19-30 March 2001 at the Sheraton-Towson, MD

It is self-funded; participants must pay for their travel and per diem. Per diem for Baltimore is \$152 (\$110 for hotel and \$42 for meals).

There will be an additional charge for reference materials kept by the student. A list of required references will be sent to the student prior to the class. The student may elect to bring their own references or purchase those supplied by USACHPPM.

We will accept applications until 29 January 2001. We will notify participants in early February as to their status. There are 35 slots available.

They can use an existing CHPPM application and fax to 410-436-8795/DSN: 584-8795, use our web site at <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/trng/datepage.htm> to apply online or call at 410-436-2439/DSN: 584-2439 for an application. The point of contact is Ms. Bonnie Burello.

Fourth Annual Force Health Protection Conference



The U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine will sponsor the 4th Annual Force Health Protection Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, 26-30 August 2001.

To accommodate the Labor Day weekend, the conference will start on Sunday and end on Thursday. If you

present a paper or poster you will be funded for travel and partial per diem.

Check the USACHPPM web site for details (<http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/trng/datepage.htm#Force>).

Respirator Cartridges: How To Set a Replacement Schedule

The updated OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard mandates cartridge replacement schedules for air-purifying respirators.

Odor threshold only may not be a reliable indicator for the need for cartridge replacement. Odor thresholds are not available for many compounds and not useful for mixtures. Also, individuals have widely varying personal odor thresholds, with 15% of the population unable to detect odors at levels exceeding the odor thresh-

old by four-fold.

The effective service life of a cartridge varies depending on the carbon characteristics and mass, the contaminant species and concentration, breathing rate, temperature and relative humidity, and presence of multiple vapors. In addition to the information provided by the manufacturer, there are a few "Rules of Thumb" for determining cartridge service life:

- Service life is inversely proportional to flow rate

(breathing rate).

- A cartridge will last 8 hours if the boiling point of the contaminant is above 70 degrees centigrade and the concentration is less than 200 ppm.
- Relative humidity above 85% will reduce service life by 50%.

It is imperative to document your rationale and the replacement schedule for respirator cartridges.



TeleWeb Virtual Seminars

A great way to leverage scarce training funds is to purchase seminars conducted via telephone and the Internet.

TeleWeb Virtual Seminars require a speakerphone and Internet connection in the same room. The students can speak directly to the off-site instructor via the speakerphone or send in questions to a web site.

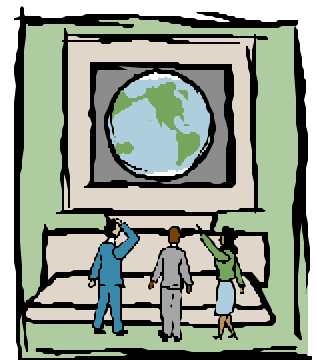
Read-ahead materials and

instructional slides are posted on the web site. More sophisticated seminars allow real-time video of the instructor. An off-site moderator ensures the course progresses smoothly and all questions are answered.

A typical 2-hour technical seminar may cost \$195. If 8 people attend at one location, the per capita cost is less than \$25, a bargain!

Certification maintenance points for CIH and CSP are available at an additional cost.

Check out the American Industrial Hygiene Association web site for web-based tele-seminars, <http://www.aiha.org/index.html>.





*U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion
and Preventive Medicine*

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

USACHPPM
ATTN: MCHB-TS-OIM
5158 Blackhawk Road
APG, MD 21010-5403

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Phone: 410-436-2439 or DSN 584-2439
Fax: 410-436-8795 or DSN 584-8795
Email: IHNews@apg.amedd.army.mil

Visit us on the web!
[chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/
ArmyIH](http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/ArmyIH)

Check Out These Web Sites!

The Defense Environmental Network and Information Exchange, <http://www.denix.osd.mil>, is an excellent resource for environmental and occupational health information.

If you have a dot-mil address you may register for the "DoD Only" options that include access to proprietary publications and datasets. As a DoD member you may benefit from free access to the Daily Environment Report, the Occupational

Safety and Health Reporter, and the biweekly Inside OSHA publication. This is a good deal, sign up today.

If you don't have the time or money to travel to training courses, take advantage of the Department of Army SmartForce Courseware, <http://www.armycbt.army.mil>.

SmartForce training programs and software are licensed for use only by U.S. Army active military, civilians, Army National Guard

and Army Reserve personnel.

SmartForce offers a wide range of on-line computer, management and technical training. Sign up today and start studying.

